(c) The number of LPG distributors under reserved categories as on 1.4.1994 was as under :

SC/ST	—	44
PH	—	21
Defence	—	14
Freedom Fighter	—	7

There is no specific reservation for OBCs.

Expansion Programmes for Refineries

2991. SHRIMATI SARALA MEHESHWARI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing production capacity of the refineries of the Indian Oil Corporation and what share does it have in the market;

(b) what is the projected demand of the refinery products from IOC after next five years;

(c) what are the plans for expansions and new commissonings to meet such demand;

(d) what is the target date of commissioning of on going Panipat Refinery Project, what is the capacity and project cost and the time and cost overrun;

(e) what is the approximately project/ MMTPA for new grass root refinery project vis-a-vis cost/MMTPA of expansion project;

(f) what are the expansion programmes of Gujarat, Mathura and Haldia Refineries; and

(g) whether there was any proposal for expansion of Haldia Oil Refinery by 3 MMTPA; if so, what is the status and if not, what are the reasons for the rejection of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The present capacity of IOC refineries is 24.55 MMTPA which represent a share of about 46%. The Government have also approved setting up of 6 MMTPA each new refineries at Panipat and in East Coast and expansion of Digboi Refinery by 0.15 MMTPA. The expansion of Koyali Refinery is under process for investment approvals etc.

(d) Government has approved the setting up of a 6 MMTPA capacity refinery at Panipat at an estimated cost of Rs. 3868 crores. The project is scheduled to be completed by April 1997.

(e) It is difficult to precisely corelate cost of grass root refinery vis-a-vis expansion.

(f) and (g) The expansion of Koyali Refinery is under process for investment approvals etc. Capacity of Haldia Refinery has already been increased from 2.5 MMTPA to 2.75 MMTPA by debottlenecking of existing facilities. The lube oil block of the refinery has also been expanded. The second phase of debottlenecking of crude distillation unit of Haldia refinery by installing a prefractionator is currently under implementation by IOC at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.7 crores which will further increase the refinery capacity by 0.2 MMTPA, i.e. to a level of 2.95 MMTPA. Presently there is no proposal for expansion of Mathura Refinery.

Survey for Crude Oil

2992. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the sites where survey is going on for finding crude oil;

(b) what are the sites where the deposts of crude oil have already been found;

(c) what plan is being made to exploit such deposits of oil;

(d) what are the financial estimates required for exploiting this oil; and

(e) by when the work would begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Surveys are presently continuing in the sedimentary basins of Cambay, Upper-Assam, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Rajasthan, Bengal, Himalayan Foothills & Ganga Valley in the onland and Western and Eastern Offshore areas.

(b) Hydrocarbons have already been discovered in the sedimentary basins of Cambay, Upper-Assam, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt, Rajasthan, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery and Western and Eastern Offshore areas.

(c) With a view to increase oil production ONGC Ltd. and OIL have made extensive programmes for development of these fields. To further supplement the efforts of ONGC Ltd. and OIL, the Govt. of India have invited bid offers from private and foreign companies for development of 73 small and medium sized fields in the first and second rounds.

(d) For exploitation of oil and gas fields ONGC Ltd. and OIL have proposed a total outlay of Rs. 13,535.62 crores for the remaining period of VIII Plan (1994-95 to 1996-97).

(e) Both exploration and exploitation for hydrocarbons are continuing.

Establishment of a National Grid for Distribution of Natural Gas

2993. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would be agreeable to consider the establishment of a national grid for the distribution of natural gas;

(b) whether pipelines to the southern and eastern regions are proposed to be laid as an integral element of such a national grid; and

(c) whether it is proposed to enforce, as a matter of principle, a uniform price for natural gas all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for establishing a National Grid. However, the concept of laying a natural gas pipeline to the Southern States from the West Coast has been accepted in principle.

(c) uniform landfall price of gas has been fixed at present all over the country except for the North Eastern States where a concessional price has been allowed in order to encourage the utilisation of gas in the North-East.

Proposal for production of Linear Alkyl Benzene in Haldia Oil Refinery

2994. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for production of value added product like Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB) in Haldia Oil Refinery; if so, what is the potential for making this product at Haldia;

(b) whether any cost benefit analysis has been made; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Micro Crystalline Wax is a bye-product at Haldia Oil Refinery; if so, whether this is being commercially marketed; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any proposal of setting up a fluidised Catalyst Cracking Unit; if not, the reasons therefor?